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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

de Baar et al.

Serial No.: 09/785,881

Filed: February 16, 2001

For: REDUCING BACKGROUND IN  
HYBRIDIZATION REACTIONS

Examiner: A. Chakrabarti

Group Art Unit: 1655

Attorney Docket No.: 4760US

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Person making Deposit: Daniel G. Thatcher

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action mailed September 5, 2001, applicants elect the invention of Group I (*i.e.*, claims 1-9, 16-18 and 21-~~1~~5, as explained herein) without traverse. This election is made without prejudice to pursuit of the remaining claims in a related application.

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**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 10-15 and 19-20, without prejudice or disclaimer.


Serial No. 09/785,881

**Remarks**

Applicants have elected the claims of Group I. Substantive examination of the application is requested. With respect to claims 21- 25, these claims were presented in a Preliminary Amendment accompanying the application upon filing. The fee for these additional claims was paid at that time. Claims 21-25 depend from the elected claims of Group I, and are similarly drawn to methods of nucleic acid hybridization. Applicants have attached a copy of the Preliminary Amendment to this Response, and ask that claims 21-25 be entered at this time.

If questions exist after consideration of the foregoing, the Office is kindly requested to contact the applicants' representative at the address or telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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BLC/bv:dlm

Date: October 5, 2001

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